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Reply to Office Action of Apr. 22, 2005

REMARKS

By the above amendments, applicant has amended claims 1 and 6 without prejudice. No new matter has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction was required under 35 U.S.C. 121.

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant hereby affirms the provisional election made without traverse by Wei Te Chung on Mar. 25, 2005, to prosecute the invention of a first group of claims, namely claims 1-10.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-5, and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Kalantar (US Patent No. 6,174,064).

In response to this rejection, applicant has amended independent claim 1 to patentably distinguish it from the cited reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 1 recites “[a] light guide plate comprising: a transparent plate comprising an emitting surface; and a plurality of diffusing protrusions provided evenly on the emitting surface of the transparent plate and integrated with the transparent plate; wherein the diffusing protrusions are hemispherical or sub-hemispherical, and a diameter of each diffusing

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protrusion is in the range from 10μm~50μm."

Kalantar discloses a light guide plate comprising an emitting surface, a bottom surface opposite to the emitting surface, and a plurality of optical elements randomly disposed on the emitting and/or bottom surfaces and integrated with the light guide plate. The optical elements typically have a maximum diameter in a range from 10μm~150μm.

The subject matter of amended claim 1 highlighted above is now contained in paragraph [0021] of the specification. No new matter has been entered, because this limitation was recited in claim 7 as originally filed, and because in para. [0026] of the specification as originally filed, the holes of the mother mold which yield the diffusing protrusions of the light guide plate are stated to have diameters in the range from 10μm~50μm. Applicant submits that Kalantar does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising a plurality of diffusing protrusions which are provided "evenly on the emitting surface" and have diameters "in the range from 10μm~50μm," as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited do not teach or suggest these diffusing protrusions either. (Please refer to the below assertions regarding each of Ohkawa and Ryu and the "evenly on the emitting surface" limitation.)

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Kalantar, and over the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

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Claims 2-5, and 8-10 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-5, and 8-10 are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohkawa (US Patent No. 6,406,158).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

Amended claim 1 recites “[a] light guide plate comprising: a transparent plate comprising an emitting surface; and a plurality of diffusing protrusions provided evenly on the emitting surface of the transparent plate and integrated with the transparent plate; wherein the diffusing protrusions are hemispherical or sub-hemispherical, and a diameter of each diffusing protrusion is in the range from 10 μ m~50 μ m.”

Ohkawa discloses a light guide plate comprising a transparent plate having an emitting surface and a back surface opposite to the emitting surface. The emitting surface provides a prism surface. The back surface includes a plurality of protrusions (not for diffusing). The protrusions are continuous and triangular. The repeat pitch of the protrusions is generally 50 μ m.

Applicant submits that Ohkawa does not teach or suggest the light guide

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plate comprising a plurality of diffusing protrusions which are "provided evenly on the emitting surface," and which are "hemispherical or sub-hemispherical," as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited do not teach or suggest these diffusing protrusions either. (Please refer to the assertions herein regarding each of Kalantar and Ryu and the "evenly on the emitting surface" limitation, and to the below assertions regarding Ryu and the "hemispherical or sub-hemispherical" limitation.)

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Ohkawa, and over the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, and 8 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-6, and 8 are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryu et al (US Patent No. 6,612,722).

Ryu does not appear to be listed in the Notice of References Cited. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as to claim 1 for the following reasons:

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Amended claim 1 recites “[a] light guide plate comprising: a transparent plate comprising an emitting surface; and a plurality of diffusing protrusions provided evenly on the emitting surface of the transparent plate and integrated with the transparent plate; wherein the diffusing protrusions are hemispherical or sub-hemispherical, and a diameter of each diffusing protrusion is in the range from 10μm~50μm.”

Ryu discloses a light guide plate comprising an emitting surface, a bottom surface opposite to the emitting surface, and a plurality of groups of cells provided on the emitting surface and integrally molded with the light guide plate. Each cell is cylindroconical and has a diameter or width of 10~100μm.

Applicant submits that Ryu does not teach or suggest the light guide plate comprising a plurality of diffusing protrusions which are provided “evenly on the emitting surface,” and which “are hemispherical or sub-hemispherical,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited do not teach or suggest these optical embodiments either. (Please refer to the above assertions regarding each of Kalantar and Ohkawa and the “evenly on the emitting surface” limitation, and to the above assertions regarding Ohkawa and the “hemispherical or sub-hemispherical” limitation.)

Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be both novel and unobvious over Ryu, and over the other references listed in the Notice of References Cited or any combination thereof. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

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Claims 2-6 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-6 are respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been canceled, and the rejection relating thereto is now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa in view of Masaki et al (US Patent No. 6,505,959 B2).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections as to claims 9-10 for the following reasons:

Applicant refers to and relies upon the above remarks regarding amended claim 1 and Ohkawa. Further, there is nothing in Masaki that teaches or suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art that he or she might or should provide the light guide plate comprising the diffusing protrusions of amended claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is submitted to be unobvious and patentable over Ohkawa in view of Masaki under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 9-10 respectively depend directly and indirectly from claim 1. Therefore reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 9-10 are respectfully requested.

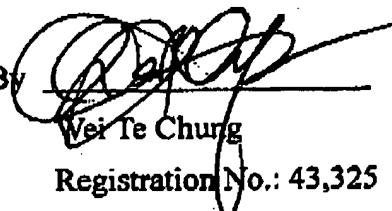
In view of the foregoing, the present application as claimed in the

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pending claims is considered to be in a condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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